

Contents

Page Number

- BLM-Nevada Overview	2
- District Map and Contacts	3
- Renewable Energy Projects/Applications	5
- Geothermal Leases	7
- Non-Renewable Energy - Oil and Gas	9
- Mining	10
- Abandoned Mine Land Program	12
- Grazing and Drought	15
- Wild Horse and Burro Program	19
- Sage-Grouse Conservation Efforts	20
- Wildfire Program	25
- Healthy Lands Initiative	28
- National Landscape Conservation System Lands & Areas of Special Designation	30
- Recreation, Visitor Services and Travel Management	31

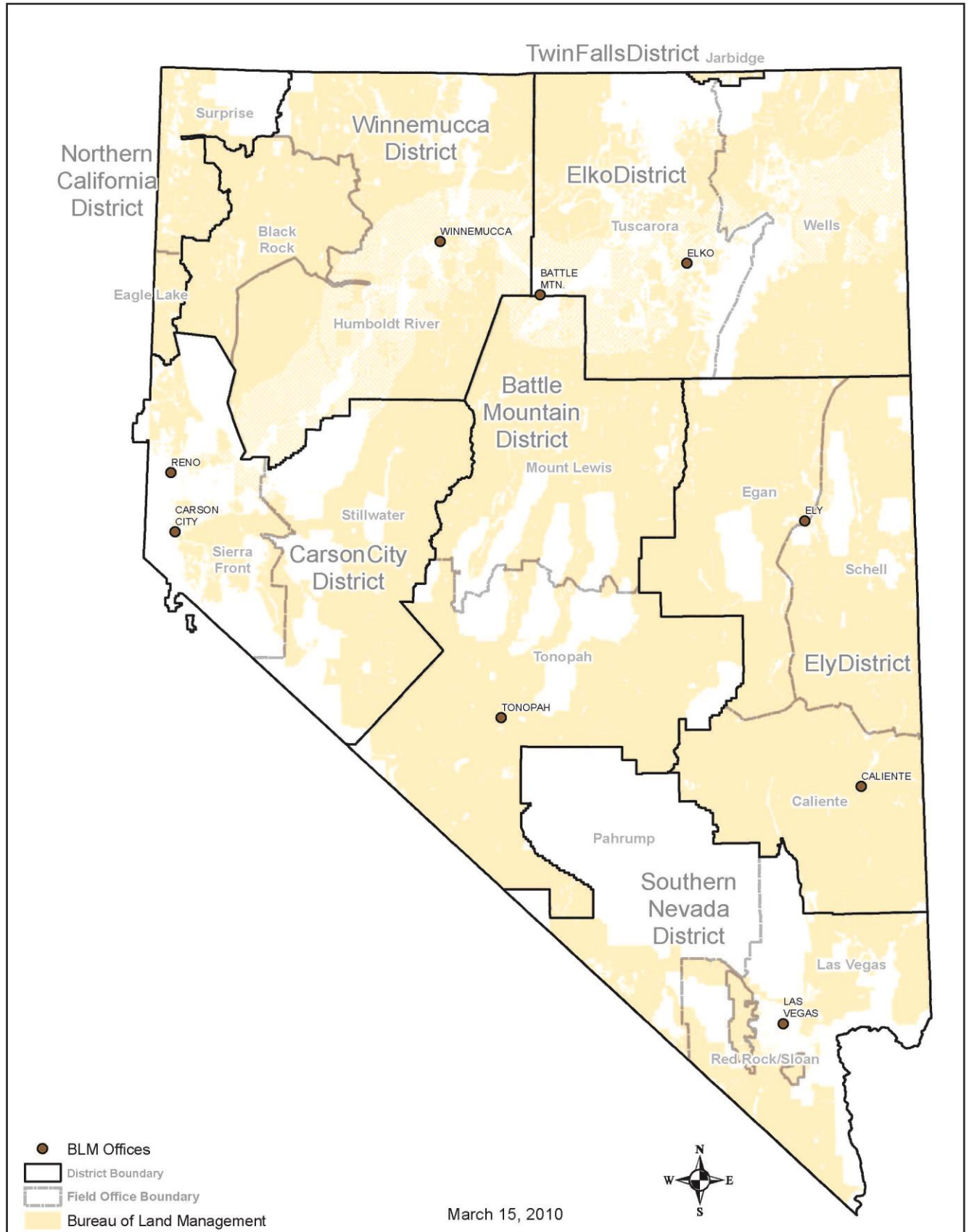


BLM Nevada Overview

- Manage 48 million acres of public land in the state
- 59 million subsurface acres
- Headquartered in Reno
- 6 districts
- 14 field offices
- Districts are divided into 2 or 3 field offices depending on size of the district
- Most field offices are co-located in their respective district office
- Detached field offices in Caliente and Tonopah
- Largest mining program in the BLM
- Most wild horses in the nation
- Additional information: www.blm.gov/nv



Image: Fog over hot pond. Battle Mountain District. Photographer: Chip Carroon



BLM Nevada Contacts

STATE OFFICE

John Ruhs
State Director

Marci Todd
Associate State Director

775-861-6590

Steve Clutter
Chief, Office of
Communications
775-861-6629

Tim Smith
Acting Deputy State Director,
Natural Resources, Land &
Planning
775-861-6464

Gene Seidlitz
Acting Deputy State Director,
Mineral Management
775-861-6576

Paul Petersen
Fire Management Officer
775-861-6670

DISTRICT and FIELD OFFICES

Battle Mountain District
Mount Lewis Field Office
Tonopah Field Office

Doug Furtado
District Manager
775-635-4000

Kyle Hendrix
Public Affairs Specialist
775-635-4054

Carson City District
Sierra Front Field Office
Stillwater Field Office

Ralph Thomas
District Manager
775-885-6000

Lisa Ross
Public Affairs Specialist
775-885-6107

Elko District
Tuscarora Field Office
Wells Field Office

Jill Silvey
District Manager
775-753-0200

Greg Deimel
Public Affairs Specialist
775-753-0386

Ely District
Caliente Field Office
Egan Field Office
Schell Field Office

Mike Herder
District Manager
775-289-1800

Chris Hanefeld
Public Affairs Specialist
775-289-1842

Southern Nevada District
Las Vegas Field Office
Pahrump Field Office
Red Rock/Sloan Field Office

Erick Kurkowski
Acting District Manager
702-515-5000

Kirsten Cannon
Public Affairs Specialist
702-515-5046

Winnemucca District
Black Rock Field Office
Humboldt River Field Office

Kenneth Collum
Acting District Manager
775-623-1500

Terah Malsam
Public Affairs Specialist
775-623-1541

Renewable Energy

The Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement was signed by the Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, on October 12, 2012, establishing an initial set of 17 Solar Energy Zones (SEZs) throughout the western states, totaling about 285,000 acres of public lands

These will serve as priority areas for commercial-scale solar development, with the potential for additional zones through ongoing and future regional planning processes. Nevada has five SEZs totaling 60,395 acres with the potential for approximately 6,700 megawatts (MW). The Solar PEIS also keeps the door open, on a case-by-case basis, for the possibility of carefully sited solar projects outside solar energy zones on about 19 million acres in “variance” areas. The program also includes a framework for regional mitigation plans, and to protect key natural and cultural resources the program excludes a little under 79 million acres that would be inappropriate for solar development based on currently available information.

BLM Nevada Solar Energy Zones

Solar Energy Zone Name, (BLM Office, County)	Megawatt Potential
Amargosa Valley (Southern Nevada/Nye) 8,479 acres	942 megawatts
Dry Lake (Southern Nevada/Clark) 5,717 acres	635 megawatts
Dry Lake Valley North (Ely/Lincoln) 25,069 acres	2,785 megawatts
Gold Point (Battle Mountain/Esmeralda) 4,596 acres	511 megawatts
Millers (Battle Mountain/Esmeralda) 16,534 acres	1,837 megawatts
Total: 60,395 acres	6,711 megawatts

Dry Lake SEZ

The Dry Lake SEZ, located in Clark County, is the first SEZ to move forward for development. The BLM NV completed the Solar Regional Mitigation Strategy for the Dry Lake SEZ, which provides compensation recommendations for unavoidable impacts expected from the development of the SEZ. BLM NV completed a 30-day formal request for interest from developers on April 15, 2014, during which nine letters of interest were. The Dry Lake SEZ Competitive Auction took place on June 30, 2014 in Las Vegas, offered 6 parcels, and brought in \$5.86 million. The BLM has recently completed the public review process for the Environmental Assessments for each project in this SEZ, and is anticipating issuing Decision Records in spring 2015.

Dry Lake North SEZ

The BLM NV is currently preparing the Solar Regional Mitigation Strategy for the Dry Lake North SEZ, located in Lincoln County. This Strategy is scheduled for completion in spring 2015. If the BLM receives specific interest in this parcel from developers, this SEZ would be the next to move forward.

Wind and Solar Permitting Process

A rights-of-way grant is an authorization to use a specific piece of public land for a certain project, such as roads, pipelines, transmission lines, as well as wind and solar energy projects. A rights-of-way grant authorizes rights and privileges for a specific use of the land for a specific period of time. Generally, a BLM rights-of-way is granted for a term appropriate for the life of the project. In particular, the BLM makes wind and solar applications a priority for the protection of resource values and to process the applications expeditiously.

2015 Renewable Energy Priority Active Projects

Solar

Dry Lake North SEZ Projects

- Harry Allen Solar Energy Center Project (Parcel 1); proposed 130 MW project on approximately 715 acres
- Playa Solar Project (Parcels 2, 3, and 4); proposed 200 MW project on approximately 1,700 acres
- Dry Lake Solar Energy Center Project (Parcels 5 and 6); proposed 150 MW project on approximately 660 acres

Luning Solar

- Proposed 50 MW project located on 560 acres near Luning, NV in Mineral County

Wind

Searchlight Wind Project

- Searchlight Wind is a 200 MW project that is currently under litigation.
- Proposed to be located on 24,383 acres of public land near Searchlight, Nevada

Geothermal Energy

Of any state, Nevada has the greatest number of federal geothermal leases and is second in geothermal electrical energy production. The first federal geothermal leases were authorized in the early 1970s with the first geothermal power plants with federal interest reaching commercial production in 1986. Nine (9) geothermal power plants reached commercial production in Nevada in the last nine years, adding 270 MW of installed capacity for a total of 500 MW of installed capacity from 18 geothermal power plants with federal interest. Two (2) of the nine (9) geothermal power plants with federal interest reached commercial production capacity during 2015. They are the McGinnis Hills II Geothermal Power Plant, which has a nameplate capacity of 48 MW, and the Don A. Campbell II Geothermal Power Plant, which has a nameplate capacity of 20 MW.

Although leasing has declined in recent years, geothermal projects are advancing such that there will likely be future geothermal power plants developed for the coming two to five year time frame. There are other geothermal exploration project sites where at each site a geothermal resource could be confirmed and advance to the development of a geothermal power plant. In addition there are several geothermal project sites with confirmed geothermal resources that could advance at any time with appropriate conditions, such as the availability of Power Purchase Agreements and transmission.

The Department of Energy has funding opportunities that could mean millions of dollars of investment into geothermal energy exploration and research. The two primary funding opportunities are the Frontier Observatory for Research in Geothermal Energy (FORGE) and the Play Fairway Analysis. With the FORGE funding opportunity, the initial phase has narrowed to five potential project sites throughout the U.S., one of which is in Nevada just east of Fallon. The second phase will narrow the potential project sites down to three and the final phase will narrow it down to one project site. Once a final site is chosen, it will become a field observatory for the research in Enhanced Geothermal Systems. The Play Fairway Analysis funding opportunity consists of ten project sites throughout the U.S., one of which is in Nevada. The project site consists of a large region in north central Nevada and largely focuses efforts on the Carson Sink and the Steptoe Valley areas. The goal of Play Fairway Analysis is to improve exploration techniques; to conduct geothermal exploration making the data publicly available; and to develop geothermal potential maps.

Geothermal Drilling Permits (GDPs) and Wells Drilled

- In Fiscal Year 2015, the BLM approved 11 GDPs and 5 wells were drilled
- In Fiscal Year 2014, the BLM approved 17 GDPs and 9 wells were drilled
- In Fiscal Year 2013, the BLM approved 39 GDPs and 21 wells were drilled

Geothermal Production

2015

- Total production: 1,694 Gigawatt hours (GWh)
- Total sales value: \$3.4 million
- Total revenue from rents, bonus bids, and royalty to federal government: \$4.1 million

2014

- Total production: 1,464 GWh

- Total sales value: \$3 million
 - Total revenue from rents, bonus bids, and royalty to federal government: \$3.7 million
- 2013
- Total production: 1,462 GWh
 - Total sales value: \$2.7 million
 - Total revenue from rents, bonus bids, and royalty to federal government: \$4.3 million

Leasing

Nevada currently has 100 authorized federal geothermal leases, which comprises more than 126,900 acres. Parcels may be nominated by both BLM and industry for competitive geothermal lease sales. BLM Nevada is planning to participate in a multi-state competitive geothermal lease sale with California, Utah, Oregon, and Washington. The sale is tentatively scheduled for October 26, 2016 in Sacramento, CA.

Recent lease sales:

BLM Nevada-FY15 no lease sale

BLM Nevada lease sale- September 2014

- Sold 1 parcel encompassing 40 acres for \$315

BLM Nevada lease sale- November 2013

- Sold 4 parcels encompassing 3,317 acres for \$13,888

BLM Nevada lease sale- January 2013

- Sold 7 parcels encompassing 6,956 acres for \$28,982

Royalty/Revenue

Pursuant to the Energy Policy Act of 2005, federal revenues from geothermal lease rents, bonus bids, and royalty payments are distributed according to the following distribution formula, which is reinstated annually through legislation:

25% Counties

50% State of Nevada

25% U.S. Treasury

- In Fiscal Year 2015, revenues paid to the State exceeded \$2.1 million with a total sales value of more than \$118 million from electricity generation.
- In Fiscal Year 2014, revenues paid to the State exceeded \$2.3 million with a total sales value of more than \$100 million from electricity generation.
- In Fiscal Year 2013, revenues paid to the State exceeded \$2.1 million with a total sales value of more than \$71.7 million from electricity generation.

Non-Renewable Energy (Oil and Gas)

Nevada has over 3.4 million acres of leased public lands (as per 10/2014) for oil and gas development. Nevada is one of the lowest oil-producing states in the country. Extraction has plunged over the past few decades, most recently (2015) because of the low oil prices, yet new exploration and leasing has marginally increased for the last three years. There is a potential that Nevada may experience increased oil activity based on new exploration and production techniques, though current commodity prices will likely affect any new development. Recent development around Elko has shown positive results from the five wells drilled, mainly as a result of advances in hydraulic fracturing technology.

Historically, Nevada's oil hot spot is Nye County's Railroad Valley. Shell Oil Co. drilled Nevada's first producing oil well there in 1954, and the state's best oil field ever — Grant Canyon Field — was discovered there in 1983. For some time, a Grant Canyon well produced up to 4,300 barrels a day, the most of any onshore well in the continental United States.

Current oil production is primarily from the Railroad Valley and Pine Valley in northeastern Eureka County.

- Nevada's public lands hold good potential for future oil and gas development
- Currently, there are 62 active wells on 32 producing leases on BLM-managed lands
- Total number of producing acres on Federal lands -22,077 Acres

Leasing

The BLM holds four competitive lease sales a year

- In Fiscal Year 2015:
 - Number of acres leased – 35,252.84 acres
 - BLM generated \$88,529.00 from lease sales and yearly rentals
- In Fiscal Year 2014:
 - Number of acres leased – 327,504 acres
 - BLM generated \$1.6 million from lease sales and yearly rentals
- In Fiscal Year 2013:
 - Number of acres leased – 188,388 acres
 - BLM generated \$8.6 million from lease sales and yearly rentals

Applications for Permits to Drill

- In Fiscal Year 2015 the BLM approved 3 applications and 2 wells were drilled.
- In Fiscal Year 2014 the BLM approved 7 applications and 5 wells were drilled.
- In Fiscal Year 2013 the BLM approved 13 applications and 5 wells were drilled.

Nevada Oil Production

2015

- Total production: 294,780 barrels – 32 producing wells
- Total sale value: \$15.2 million
- Total revenue to federal government: \$1.9 million

2014

- Total production: 313,051 barrels – 40 producing wells

- Total sale value: \$27.1 million
- Total revenue to federal government: \$3.4 million

2013

- Total production: 331,013 barrels – 30 producing wells
- Total sale value: \$28.9 million
- Total revenue to federal government: \$3.7 million

Royalty/Revenue

Sale receipts are equally divided between the state and the U.S. Treasury

Mining

Nevada has the Largest Mining Program in the BLM

- 257 Approved active Mining Plans of Operation
- 3284 Active Exploration Notices
- More than 193,000 active mining claims (49% of the BLM total)
- BLM NV holds more than \$2 billion in 43 CFR 3809 Surface Management reclamation bonds
- BLM Nevada recorded over 1.1 million mining claims to date

Third Largest Industry in Nevada

- 2015 Direct Employment – 10,500
- 2015 Related Employment – 16,145
- Nevada produces approximately 75 percent of U.S. gold production
- Nevada is the fourth largest producer of gold in the world

2015 Annual Production

- Gold 4,940,000 troy ounces
- Silver 10,930,000 troy ounces
- Copper 133,000,000 pounds
- Various industrial minerals worth hundreds of millions of dollars

Leasing of Solid Minerals other than Coal and Oil Shale

- Currently the BLM has 2 authorized permits (one sand/gravel lease and a potassium preference right lease).

Mineral Materials - Material Sales Act of 1947 (Sand and Gravel)

BLM Nevada has one of the largest Mineral Materials Programs in the BLM

- 2015: BLM NV executed over 100 new sales, bring active total over 800. Production figures are not presently available.

- 2014: BLM NV sold 5.5 million cubic yards of sand and gravel, calcium, clay, stone, and other material valued at more than \$4.1 million
- 2013: BLM NV sold 2.3 million cubic yards of sand and gravel, calcium, clay, stone and other material valued at more than \$2.2 million
- The majority of minerals are extracted from four community pits within the Las Vegas Valley

Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Program

BLM Nevada has the largest statewide program in the agency. Inventory and remediation of abandoned mines is continuing with several hundred new features added to the inventory every year. Our work is done in cooperation with our partners in the Nevada Division of Minerals, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDOM), U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Forest Service, mining industry, and others.

2015 Accomplishments

- Inventories are conducted in conjunction with the Nevada Division of Minerals (NDOM) and approximately 20,000 features have been inventoried since program inception;
- Temporarily secured in conjunction with NDOM approximately 8,353 features with fences and warning signs since program inception;
- Permanently closed 189 features on BLM Nevada public lands in 2015;
- More than 2,517 features permanently closed (gates/grates, foam, backfill) as part of the BLM AML program since program inception;
- 996 sites were assessed in 2015 for bats, desert tortoise, plants and cultural surveys;
- Safety surveys and closures ongoing in all areas of Nevada;
- Continued cooperation with NDOM to address public safety concerns for dangerous shafts associated with the Historic Comstock Lode in Virginia City;
- Completed Preliminary Site Assessments/Site investigations at six sites for environmental contamination. Seven sites scheduled for 2016; and
- Ongoing work the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection, US Forest Service, NDOM, US Army Corps of Engineers and private land owners with Nevada Abandoned Mine Environmental Team (NAMLET) concerning contaminated sites.

(Data derived from Abandoned Site Cleanup Module BLM Database and NDOM Database)



Abandoned mine site near Beatty Nevada

Cooperative Agreements

- Great Basin Institute: archaeological and tortoise surveys
- Bat Conservation International: bat surveys
- Nevada Division of Minerals: inventory, fencing/signing and permanent closures
- Nevada Department of Wildlife: bat surveys and research, gates
- U.S. Forest Service “Portal Posse” for all types of permanent closures
- Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act grants: work in Clark, Lincoln and White Pine counties for inventories, and permanent closures
- Bureau of Reclamation: Conducts physical closure work in many of the BLM districts

Hazardous Management and Resource Restoration (HMRR) Program

- Contract was awarded to United States Army Corp Engineers to conduct Preliminary Assessment/Site Investigations (PA/SIs) at five (5) abandoned mining and mill sites across Nevada under BLM’s CERCLA authority.
- Contract was awarded to Pioneer Technical Services to conduct PA/SIs at two (2) abandoned mercury mining and mill sites across Nevada under BLM’s CERCLA authority.
- Environmental cleanups continue at a number of abandoned mill sites.
- Public lands continue to be used as illegal dump sites and cleanup projects occur in all BLM Districts to reduce these illegal solid waste sites.
- Continued involvement with EPA, NDEP and stakeholders concerning the Yerington-Anaconda Mine site regarding groundwater contamination and tailings material.



Adelaide Crown Mine, Winnemucca District

Grazing and Drought

BLM livestock grazing policies are designed to protect the productivity of public lands while ensuring efficient and effective administration. Properly managed livestock grazing is congressionally mandated and provides economic and social benefits to Nevada communities.

The federal grazing fee is adjusted annually and is calculated by using a formula originally set by Congress in the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978. An AUM (or animal unit month) is the amount of forage needed to sustain one cow and her calf, one horse, or five sheep or goats for a month. The grazing fee for 2014 was \$1.35 per AUM, the same level as it was in 2013, however for Grazing year 2015 it will be \$1.69 per AUM. The grazing fee for 2016 has not yet been released.

Any U.S. citizen or validly licensed business can apply for a BLM grazing permit or lease. To do so, one must either:

- buy or control private property (known as “base property”) that has been legally recognized by the BLM as having preference for the use of public land grazing privileges, or
- acquire property that has the capability to serve as base property and then apply to the BLM to transfer the preference for grazing privileges from an existing base property to the acquired property (which would become the new “base property”).

The first alternative happens when base property (a ranch) is sold or leased to a new individual or business; the buyer or lessee then applies to the BLM for the use of grazing privileges associated with that property. The second alternative would happen when a rancher wants to transfer existing public land grazing privileges to another party while keeping the private ranch property.

BLM Nevada Grazing Basics

- BLM Nevada administers 668 grazing authorizations on 797 grazing allotments.
- Nevada has the most public land authorized for grazing in BLM; about 43 million acres
- Nevada currently permits about 2 million AUMs
- From 1990 to present, BLM has authorized 1.3 to 1.8 million AUMs annually
- Nevada historically ranks third/fourth in AUMs sold

Grazing use is authorized under grazing permits and leases

- A **grazing permit** is the authorization to graze a specific number and class of livestock on a designated grazing area for a specified amount of time. (Section 3 of the Taylor Grazing Act)

- A **grazing lease** is the authorization to graze livestock on public lands outside of the grazing district for a specified period of time. (Section 15 of the Taylor Grazing Act)

Grazing Receipts Paid to Nevada

2014	\$181,403 ¹
2013	\$201,916 ¹
2012	\$240,434
2011	\$225,000
2010	\$192,000
2009	\$ 212,980
2008	\$ 213,930
2007	\$ 282,488

¹ Deductions were made from the amount owed the state due to sequestration legislation.

Distribution of Grazing Receipts

- *Inside Grazing Districts:*
50 percent BLM Range Improvement Fund; 37.5 percent Treasury General Fund; 12.5 percent state
- *Outside Grazing Districts:*
50 percent BLM Range Improvement Fund; 50 percent state

Nevada range priorities

Priorities for the Nevada range program are:

- To assess land health in areas containing sage-grouse and renew those permits;
- To ensure appropriate use and resource protection during drought;
- to renew expired/expiring grazing permits;
- assess rangeland health; and
- ensure that grazing use is managed in accordance with rangeland health standards and meet BLM Resource Management Plan resource goals.

In 2015 BLM Nevada:

- Processed 21 grazing permits
- Monitored 334 allotments
- Completed 29 rangeland health assessments
- Conducted 676 grazing permit compliance inspections

Drought Management

Nearly all public lands in Nevada were affected by drought in 2014, however some relief from the drought was seen in 2015, especially in the north and eastern portions of the state. BLM

Nevada follows a drought management strategy outlined in Nevada Handbook H-1730-1 Resource Management During Drought. This handbook is available online at www.blm.gov/nv.

In addition, BLM Nevada Districts have developed area-specific drought management environmental assessments which will identify local strategies and actions to be implemented to manage the effects of drought.

During 2015 BLM Nevada continued to monitor range conditions and identified actions to minimize the effects of drought to public land resources. Forage and water availability were the primary concerns.

2015 drought actions:

- Monitored over 330 grazing allotments to assess drought impacts;
- Voluntary grazing reductions were agreed to on over 215 grazing allotments;
- Over 210,000 AUMs were voluntarily not used to allow for resource protection during drought conditions.

In 2015, BLM continues to monitor conditions and implement appropriate drought management actions through voluntary agreement or decision as appropriate.

BLM Nevada Grazing Permit Renewal Team

- In November 2014, BLM Nevada created an interdisciplinary team - aka Grazing Permit Renewal Team (GPRT) - to assist in completing grazing permit renewals in Nevada. This team is located at the Nevada State Office as part of the Resources Division reporting to the Deputy State Director for Resources. In December 2015, the entire team was hired and reported to the State Office.
- Priorities for the GPRT include completing grazing permit renewals associated with: (1) greater sage grouse habitat (within Sagebrush Focal Areas, Priority and General Habitat Management Areas), (2) litigation and court orders, (3) Threatened and Endangered Species, and (4) other high priority resource value areas as identified.
- Keeping the above mentioned priorities in mind, the GPRT Supervisor (in coordination with the applicable District Managers and the State Director) created a 10-year GPRT Schedule for completing permit renewals in the Battle Mountain, Carson City, Elko, Ely, and Winnemucca districts. The first group of grazing permit renewals include the Argenta (per a 2015 Court Ordered Stipulated Settlement Agreement) and the Battle Mountain Complex (includes Copper Canyon and North Buffalo) allotments administered out of the Battle Mountain District. This project is scheduled to be completed before the start of the 2018 grazing year (before March 1, 2018).
- The grazing permit renewal process includes completing the following documents: (1) watershed/allotment Rangeland Health Assessment, Evaluation and Determination; applicable NEPA (environmental assessment or environmental impact statement); and the

applicable proposed and final grazing decisions in accordance with Federal Grazing Regulation 43 CFR Subpart 4160 – Administrative Remedies.

- **Argenta and Battle Mountain Complex allotments (aka Group 1).**
 - Argenta Allotment includes:
 - A total of 290,814 acres, including 141,706 BLM acres.
 - Authorized active grazing animal unit months (AUMS) between 2006-15 ranged from 2,146 to 16,428.
 - Battle Mountain Complex Allotments:
 - Copper Canyon Allotment:
 - A total of 106,431 acres, including 61,400 BLM acres.
 - Authorized active grazing animal unit months (AUMS) between 2006-15 ranged from 2,706 to 4,017.
 - North Buffalo Allotment:
 - A total of 98,067 acres, including 56,019 BLM acres.
 - Authorized active grazing animal unit months (AUMS) between 2006-15 ranged from 0 to 1,697 (non-use authorized in 2014).
- Once the 10-year grazing permits associated with the Argenta and Battle Mountain Complex allotments are completed, the next group of grazing permit renewals (Group 2) will be within the Winnemucca District. As currently scheduled, Group 2 grazing permit renewals are associated with 23 grazing allotments, totaling 439,067 acres (which includes 412,926 BLM acres).

Wild Horse and Burro Program

The BLM protects, manages, and controls wild horses and burros under the authority of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 to ensure that healthy herds thrive on healthy rangelands. BLM Nevada has the largest wild horse and burro program in the agency with an estimated state-wide BLM population of about 35-37,000. Over population and potential reductions of available water and forage due to on-going drought still present serious management concerns across Nevada.

The BLM works to achieve the Appropriate Management Level (AML) – the point at which wild horse and burro herd populations are consistent with the land’s capacity to support them. In the context of its multiple-use mission, AML is the level at which wild horses and burros can thrive in balance with other public land uses and resources, including vegetation and wildlife. The AML is a range of low to maximum levels that allows for population growth over a four- to five-year period. To establish AML, the BLM evaluates several years of rangeland resource and population data. Those evaluations look at information relating to vegetation, soils, weather, and water quality. Each Herd Management Area (HMA) has its own AML. When AML is exceeded, the excess animals are gathered and then prepared for adoption or sent to long-term pastures.

Basic Information on the BLM Nevada wild horses and burro program:

- Number of WH&B Specialists in Nevada: 9
- Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Allocation: \$5.2 million
- Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Allocation: \$5.0 million (projected to this level but will depend on approved gathers)
- 83 Herd Management Areas
- Current project population = 35-37,000 (includes horses & burros)
- State-wide Appropriate Management Level = 12,688 (includes horses & burros)
- Number of HMAs at or over AML: 74

2015 Accomplishments

- Removed 1,640 excess wild horses and burros
- Conducted 54 population inventories
- Monitored 59 HMAs
- Adopted 111 animals

2016 Targets/Accomplishments

- Remove 200 excess wild horses/burros (FY16 National priorities not finalized, could increase)
- Conduct 42 population inventories
- Monitor 50 HMAs
- Adopt 95 animals

- Initiated the Water Canyon Population Control project in the Ely District using GonaCon as the population control vaccine. This is the first project using this vaccine on public lands. A total of 53 horses were water trapped, 30 horses were removed and mares were treated with the GonaCon vaccine and released back to the HMA on Dec 12, 2015. Eleven of the horses removed have been adopted so far.

Sage-Grouse Conservation

Greater Sage-grouse

In 2010 the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) published a listing decision for the greater sage-grouse (GRSG) as “warranted but precluded.” Inadequacy of regulatory mechanisms was identified as a major threat to the species. Resource Management Plans (RMPs) are the overarching regulatory documents that guide the BLM’s land management actions.

The BLM, working jointly with the Forest Service, has approved a series of Records of Decisions and Land Use Plan or Land Use Plan Amendments to incorporate GRSG conservation measures on the lands they manage, thus ameliorating the inadequacy of regulatory mechanisms threat to avoid a potential listing under the Endangered Species Act. For the purposes of this planning effort, the Western Region is divided into four sub-regions: **Northeast California-Nevada**; Oregon; Idaho and Southwestern Montana; and Utah.

The BLM’s multiple use and sustained yield mission requires us to find a balance between the full range of resources, including the conservation of crucial wildlife habitat, and resource uses. These principles have driven the development of BLMs conservation planning strategy for GRSG and its habitat.

Our planning and implementation process has been complex and highly collaborative with meaningful coordination with the public serving as the cornerstone. Throughout the process, we have worked closely with a broad range of stakeholders, including Governors, State Fish and Game agencies, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service and many others.

Working with our partners, the BLM and USFS have resolved key issues (like disturbance limits and mitigation approaches).

We have confidence these plans, will help ensure the long-term viability of the GRSG and other iconic wildlife species on public lands and the continued economic vitality of the West.

Strong Federal land use plans (BLM and USFS), however, will only get us part of the way in ensuring the long-term conservation of GRSG and avoid the need to list under the Endangered Species Act.

One third of GRSG habitat is administered by the states or is privately-owned. For this reason, strong State plans as well as an effective strategy to reduce the risk of fire to GRSG habitat are key components of the range-wide strategy. We are continuing our collaboration with our state and federal partners as well as private landowners to ensure all components of a range-wide strategy are in place.

Together we can ensure listing of the GRSG is no longer warranted while preserving traditional Western economic activity that is also dependent on a healthy sagebrush range. Figure 1 displays the habitat categories that provide the basis for the application of the BLM's policy for conserving sage-grouse habitat in Nevada. This map is based on the GRSG habitat suitability modeling by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). It was prepared in cooperation with Dr. Peter Coates with USGS, the states of Nevada and California, and the BLM. The map underwent peer review and is considered by the State of Nevada, USGS, and the BLM as the best available science on location and suitability of sage-grouse habitat in Nevada and northeastern California. The mapping effort incorporated updated telemetry data (1998-2013), landscape habitat mapping (which includes vegetation mapping as well as topography and land features) and GRSG lek data.

Key Elements to Land Use Plans:

We are implementing key elements of the planning effort, which will enable us to achieve greater clarity and consistency across the range while honoring specific local approaches and conditions.

Key elements addressed include:

- Limiting or eliminating new surface disturbance in sage-grouse priority habitat and minimizing additional disturbance in general habitat.
- Improving greater sage-grouse habitat condition
- Reducing the threat of rangeland fire to greater sage-grouse in the Great Basin by placing added priority prevention, suppression and restoration of sagebrush landscapes threatened by rangeland fire through improved federal-state-local collaboration and coordination.

To further reduce the threat of wildfire, invasive species, and conifer encroachment to sage-grouse in the Great Basin over the long term, the BLM initiated the Fire and Invasives Assessment (FIAT) Project in the fall of 2014. Five assessment teams include representatives from partners such as the USFS, NRCS, and State agencies. These non-decisional evaluations build upon broad, regional findings to identify priority landscapes (Priority Areas for Conservation, or PACs). Within these large landscapes, "focal habitats" reflect the intersection of high quality sage-grouse habitats, areas of high bird density, and patterns of ecological resilience, as well as factors which threaten continuation of functional habitat or populations. Management strategies and priority areas for treatment will be developed considering both the regional context coupled with finer-resolution data at the local scale. These findings will be applied to ameliorate trends in wildfire size, habitat fragmentation, and ultimately declining sage-grouse populations.

The five (5) FIAT assessments will identify and display an outyear program of work within four federal program areas: Fuels Management; Habitat Recovery/Restoration; Fire Operations; and Post-Fire Rehabilitation. These assessments will be completed April 2015 and will be submitted to the FWS to also help avoid the need to list under the Endangered Species Act.

Bi-State Sage-grouse

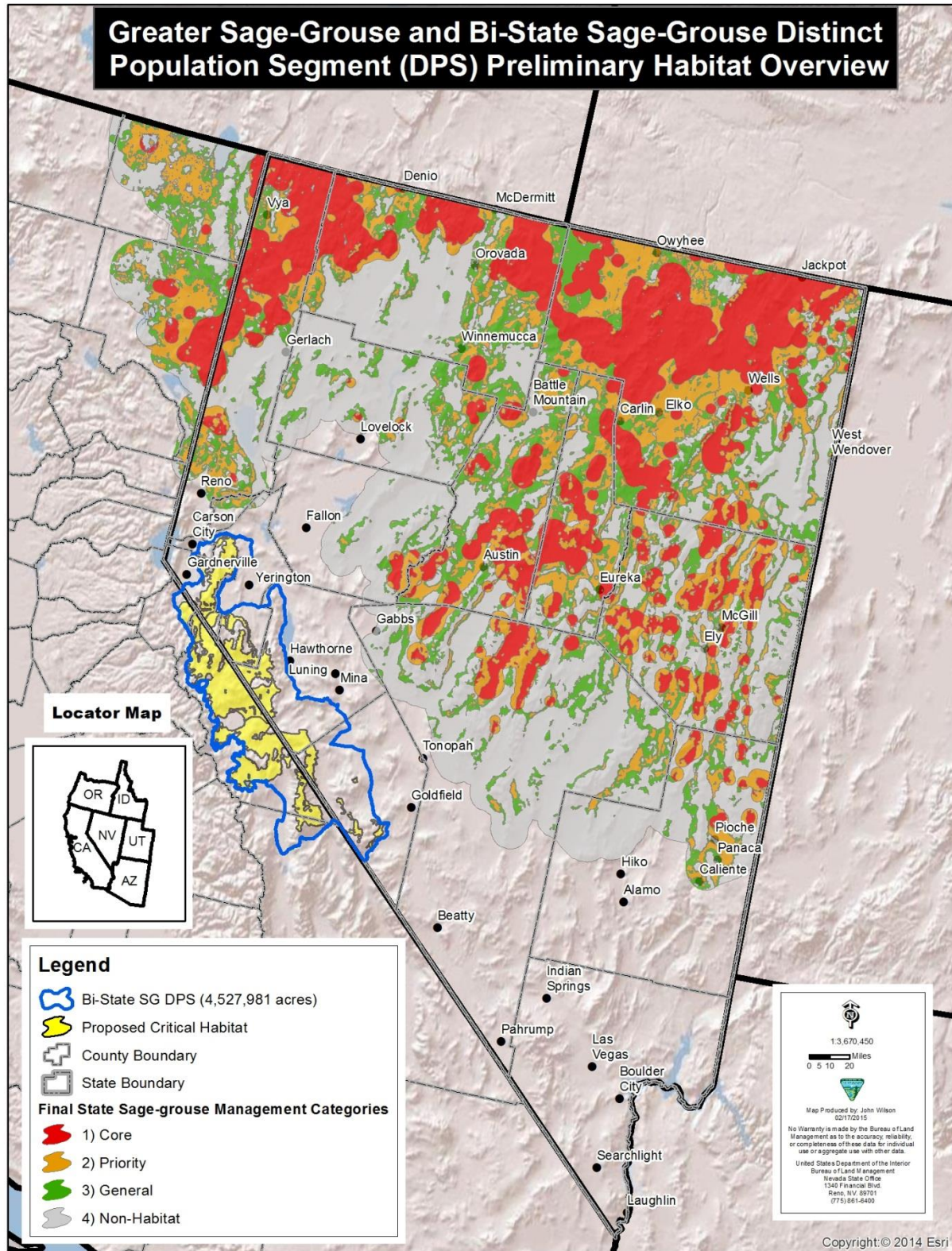
In March 2010, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) determined that the Bi-State population of greater sage-grouse constitutes a valid Distinct Population Segment (DPS). This distinction allows the Bi-State DPS to be listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) independently from the range-wide population of sage-grouse. Also, conservation and management of the Bi-State DPS is being planned and implemented independently from the range-wide sage-grouse planning effort. In October of 2013, the DPS was proposed for listing as threatened under the ESA. The FWS withdrew the proposal to list under the ESA in April of 2015.

The FWS withdrew the proposal in large part because of the success of the Bi-State Action Plan. The plan is the product of the Bi-State Area Local Working Group, comprising federal, state and local agencies and landowners from Nevada and California, which has been pursuing sage-grouse conservation since the early 2000s. Since then, the working group's technical advisory committee has finalized plans on nearly 80 science-driven conservation projects specifically designed to reduce identified threats and protect the sagebrush-steppe habitat.

The working group's executive oversight committee has raised more than \$45 million in federal and state funding to ensure the projects are implemented and completed over the next 10 years. Long-term projects implemented under the Bi-State Action Plan include population monitoring, urbanization abatement measures, livestock management, wild horse management, pinyon and juniper removal, disease and predation studies and other habitat improvement and restoration projects.

Each of the projects is tied to a specific population management unit within the region, led and funded by a specific agency or partnership, and ranked by the immediacy of the threat to the species.

The USGS has been a key partner in monitoring the Bi-State population and interpreting data collected to assure the Bi-State partners are using the best science in their conservation efforts.



BLM Nevada Wildland Fire and Fuels Management

- With the exception of Alaska, BLM Nevada has the largest wildfire program in the BLM
- Fires and Acres – 2015
 - All agencies (within NV); 547 fires burned 42,985 acres
 - BLM Nevada; 343 fires burned 17,520 acres

Wildfire Program Partnerships

- Work with State/Federal Wildland Fire partners to expand programs;
- Continue to provide Wildland fire training and build and maintain effective relationships with interagency partners including city, county, Volunteer Fire Departments, utilities and other non-governmental agencies;
- Expand opportunities to mitigate hazardous fuel conditions treat invasive species, conduct rehabilitation on previous/current burned areas;
- Continue to build and expand partnerships to protect communities, private property and lives by improving wildfire suppression efforts;
- Annual sponsor of the Nevada Wildfire Awareness Week; Nevada Wildland Urban Interface Conference;
- Work with the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Service to expand the Living with Fire program;
- The BLM, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, and Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources continue to work together to counter the effects of fire, invasive species, and other ecologically disruptive changes in vegetation condition.

Rural Fire Protection Associations (RFPA)

- **AB163 passed Nevada Legislature in June 2015**
 - 2 or more individuals who own, lease, produce agriculture, or occupy property
 - Defined Map of protection area
 - Financial Viability
 - Liability Insurance
 - Workers compensation
 - Roster of Members
 - Inventory of Vehicles
 - Trained to NWCG Firefighter Type 2 standards
 - Group approves established rules of engagement
 - Approval from NDF State Forester
 - Approved by County Commission or Fire District

2015 BLM Fuels Treatments

- Prescribed Fire = 471 Acres
- Mechanical = 38,741 Acres

- Other = 8,266 Acres
- Total = 47,458 Acres
- Priority in 2016 is SFA, FIAT and Priority Habitat treatments.
- Goal to increase to 85,000 acres by 2018.
- Challenges – Table 2-2, NEPA, Capacity

2016 BLM Fuels Treatments

- Prescribed Fire = 433 Acres
- Mechanical = 9,995 Acres
- Other = 2,893 Acres
- Target=57,000 Acres

GB Regional Implementation Meetings

- Federal Family Meeting for Sage Grouse Implementation – Internal Meetings 4-6/7, Reno, NV Location TBD
- Federal Family Meeting for Sage Grouse Implementation – External Meetings 4-27, Reno, NV Location TBD

Pre Suppression Budget

- 2015: \$17.2 million
- 2014: \$13.9 million
- 2013: \$14.1 million

Planned 2016 BLM Suppression Resources:

- 3 Initial Attack helicopters, based in Elko, Ely (Panaca) and Las Vegas. With the ability to staff up to 6
- 7 Single-Engine Air Tankers (SEATS)
- 2 Air Attack aircraft for aerial detection and fire air traffic control (aerial supervision)
 - Reno (Stead)
 - Elko
 - Winnemucca (as needed)
- 51 fire engines, 6 Initial Attack Dozers
- 2 Hotshot Crews
 - Silver State Hot Shots (Carson City)
 - Ruby Mountain Hot Shots (Elko)
- 1 Type 2 initial attack crew
 - Vegas Valley Crew
 - Staffed by Veterans stationed in Las Vegas.

Sage-grouse Habitat Protection from, and Rehabilitation after, Wildfire

- DOI Secretarial Order 3336 issued on 1-5-15
- The DOI and the BLM have identified Greater Sage-grouse habitat as the highest natural resource protection priority for wildfire suppression efforts.
- Prioritization of Sage Grouse Habitat

- Aggressive Initial Attack
- Proactive resource movements
- Movement of out of state resources to Sage Grouse Habitat areas
- Aggressive Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation
- The BLM provides guidance, habitat maps, and guidelines to augment protection of Greater Sage-grouse habitats and population.
- Nevada has been completing the Fire and Invasive Assessment Tool (FIAT) protocol which identifies across Nevada projects and fire operations guidelines that will restore and protect sage brush communities
- Projects started in SFA and PPA's identified in FIAT

Healthy Lands Initiative

The BLM's Healthy Landscapes (HL) program is a BLM funding initiative and the successor to the Secretary's Healthy Lands Initiative, launched in 2007, as a long-term, landscape scale, collaborative effort.

The HL funding initiative provides the field with opportunities to coordinate BLM funding (one-time and base) with partner funding to achieve landscape objectives across ownerships and jurisdictions at a landscape (not project) level. HL funds may be used to address current and future resource conditions as identified in large scale assessments such as the Central Basin and Range and the Mojave Basin and Range Rapid Ecoregional Assessments; to decrease habitat fragmentation; to restore or maintain habitat connectivity; to slow the rate of decline or improving resource condition; to protect high value resources from change agents such as fire; and to anticipate and address future effects of change agents.

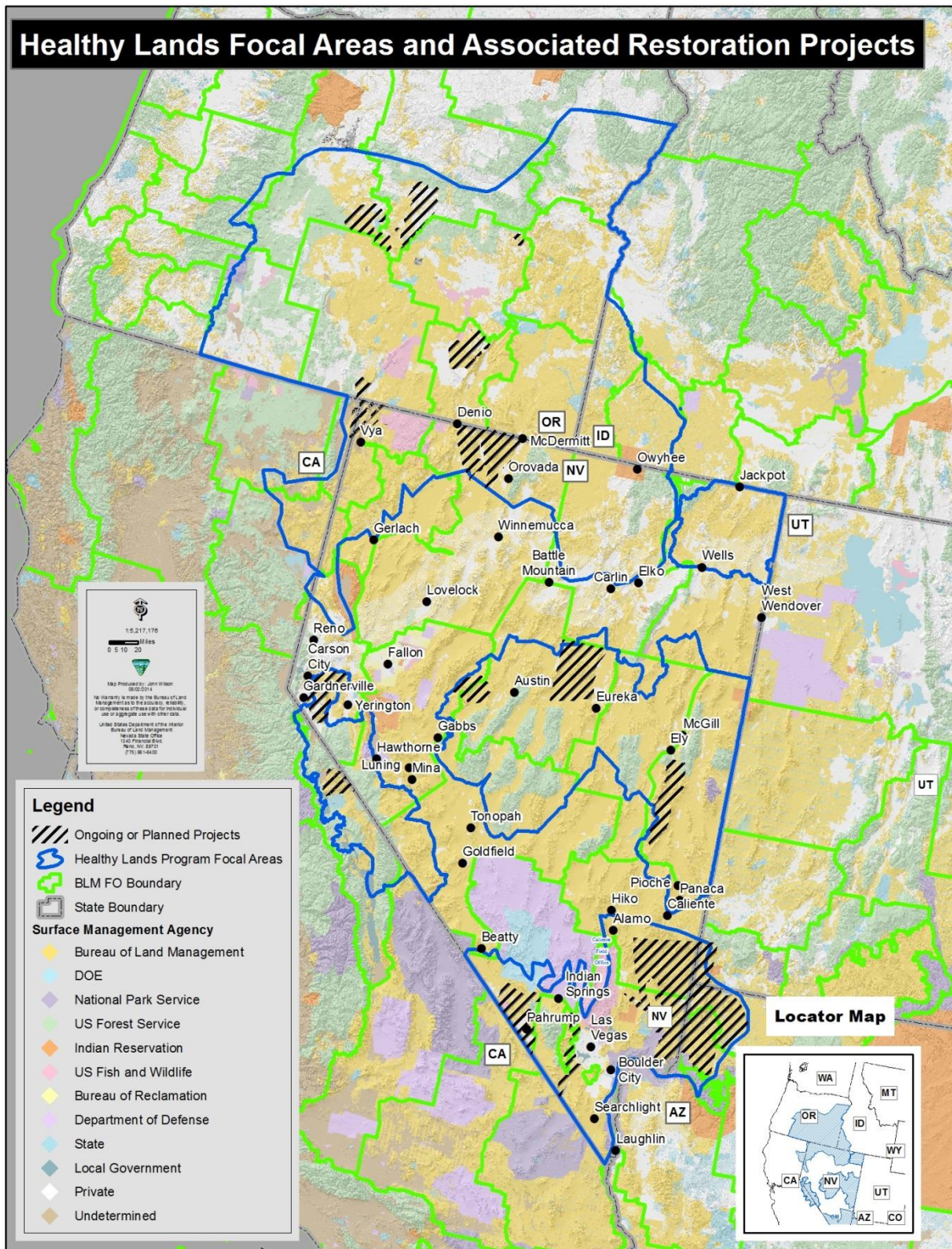
The BLM Nevada developed broad HL focal areas that will receive multi-year (FY16-20) HL program funding for integrated landscape restoration and land health partnership projects as part of Nevada's "Landscape Approach. Some Focal Areas are shared with other states. See Figure 1 for HL Focal Area locations and associated restoration projects.

The goals of the HL funding initiative are to:

1. Conserve and restore sustainable ecosystems.
 - a. Manage development in concert with natural resource objectives
 - b. Address and manage for current and future risks.

The objectives of the HL funding initiative are to:

2. Institutionalize managing resources on a landscape basis
 - a. Develop and implement integrated regional strategies.
 - b. Coordinate and conduct restoration and protection across jurisdictions through partnerships.
 - c. Address issues at appropriate scale
 - d. Coordinate across programs, disciplines, and initiatives.



National Landscape Conservation System and Areas of Special Designation

3 National Conservation Areas

- Sloan Canyon
 - o Established 2002; encompasses approximately 48,000 acres
- Red Rock Canyon
 - o Designated 1990; encompasses 195,610 acres
 - o Most visited NCA in the Bureau – more than 1.5 million visitors a year
- Black Rock Desert High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails – designated 2000
 - o Encompasses almost 1.2 million acres of public lands in northwestern Nevada

1 National Monument

- Basin and Range
 - o Established July 2015 by Presidential Proclamation; encompasses 704,000 acres

46 Wilderness Areas

- Encompass 2,079,020 acres
- Nevada Wilderness is designated by Congress and usually via County Land Bills

60 Wilderness Study areas

- Encompass 2,516,855 acres

54 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

- Encompass almost 1.5 million acres

Segments of three National Trails

- California National Historical Trail: 700 mile trail segments that crosses BLM in northern Nevada
- Pony Express National Historic Trail: 300 mile trail segments on BLM across central Nevada
- Old Spanish Trail: 125 mile trail segments that crosses BLM in southern Nevada

Recreation, Visitor Services and Travel Management Overview

Visitor Services

- Approximately 8 million visitors recreated on BLM Nevada lands in 2015
- Issued approx. 390 special recreation permits including the Burning Man event and numerous high profile off-highway vehicle race events

Environmental Education, Interpretation and Partnerships

- BLM and its partners offer more than 1,900 interpretive programs each year in local schools such as the Mojave Max Program in Clark County which educates thousands of students
- Five partners work collaboratively with BLM to provide environmental education opportunities to public land visitors and students in schools/local communities
- Annual BLM contributions to partners provide operating money to fund employees
- Major partners include: Friends of Nevada Wilderness, Southern Nevada Conservancy, Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association, Nevada Outdoor School, Friends of the Black Rock, Southern Nevada Conservancy, Great Basin Institute.
- Every Kid in a Park is a new youth initiative which spans all federal public land management agencies. Every 4th grade student in the US can download a free voucher at the everykidinapark.gov website, bring it to any of the offices that distribute the America the Beautiful pass and receive a pass which gives the student and their immediate family free admission to federal facilities until 8/31/2016. Nevada State Parks has also jumped on board so the student and their family also receive free admission in any NV State Park as well.
- The Nevada Adventure Book for Junior Explorers was introduced early in the year along with a fun geocaching activity and the 2015 BLM Nevada planning calendar that showcased the winners of the 3rd annual photo contest.
- BLM and our partners hosted a 2nd season of very successful Artist-in-Residence programs at both Black Rock Desert NCA and Red Rock Canyon NCA.

Travel Management and Off Highway Vehicle Use

OHV use in Nevada has increased dramatically in recent years. Thousands of recreationists from throughout the western United States look to Nevada's vast open spaces for unique dispersed recreational opportunities

- Approximately 25 percent of Nevada's population are OHV users;
- Increasing numbers of California OHV users recreate in Nevada due to real or perceived restrictions in California;
- Approximately 20 million of the 48 million acres of BLM-administered public land is open to unrestricted cross-country OHV use creating the potential for significant impacts to BLM public land species, habitats, natural resources, etc.;
- BLM will address the increasing use as we update our land use plans and designate open, limited, and to a much lesser extent, closed OHV area designations;
- The BLM is currently conducting comprehensive travel management planning to include route inventories, route analysis and designation of a sustainable transportation system that includes OHV recreation;

- It has been determined via the permitting process that 85 percent of the users at Sand Mountain (Fallon) come from California. Most of these users make several multi-day trips to this site each year resulting in an economic benefit to the Fallon, Fernley and Reno/Sparks area.

Links

BLM Nevada website

www.blm.gov/nv

BLM Nevada Facebook

www.facebook.com/BLMNevada

Twitter

www.twitter.com/BLMNV

Flickr

www.flickr.com/blmnevada

YouTube

www.youtube.com/BLMNEVADA